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scientific world the most emphatic verdict of commendation. It is second to no production of the day in the marks of patient industry, careful elaboration, lucid method, and philosophic reasoning. As an American work, it does honor to the nation; as a contribution to science, its importance cannot be overrated.

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- 19.—1. *Mabel Vaughan*. By the Author of "The Lamplighter." Boston: John P. Jewett & Co. 1857. 12mo. pp. 508.
2. *Here and Hereafter*; or, *The Two Altars*. By ANNA ATHERN, Author of "Step by Step; or, Delia Arlington." Boston: Crosby, Nichols, & Co. 1858. 12mo. pp. 376.

MABEL VAUGHAN has disappointed our expectations in a way in which we are glad to be disappointed. To our mind it very far out-distances its predecessor in merit. In "The Lamplighter," we admired the personage that gives name to the book, and could not but sympathize with the fortunes of the heroine; yet the story did not seem to us skilfully constructed, and many of the incidents were beyond the range of even a novelist's probability. In this new tale, Mabel, the central figure, yields in interest to no character of recent fiction; the plot is strongly conceived, and developed naturally and happily; and the sketches of rural, city, and Western life are wonderfully fresh, vivid, and authentic. At the same time, the story, in its main series of events, in its by-plots, in its mere details, is fraught with the highest truths of morality and religion; and these are not obtruded upon the reader, but so incorporated with the whole texture of the tale, that he must either take them in, or leave the book unread. We note also a marked improvement in style, and cannot but predict for the accomplished author a high and enduring place among our American novelists.

We can see no reason to slacken or essentially vary our eulogy, in passing to "Here and Hereafter." It is a continuation of "Delia Arlington," the story of the two marriages which did *not* take place in that pioneer volume. Here the distinctively religious purpose is more prominent than in "Mabel Vaughan"; but, as there, the lessons of faith and piety are embodied in the life-experiences of the characters, not set forth in formal dialogues or in the author's running commentary. Indeed, were we to specify one among the many features of high artistic excellence in "Here and Hereafter," it would be the simplicity, naturalness, lifelikeness, of the conversations.